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SENATE APPROVES \$664 MILLION FOR ROCKY FLATS
FY2005 defense authorization bill includes
Sen. Allard's funding request for a post-closure organization

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, announced Thursday that the full Senate has approved a FY 2005 Department of Defense Authorization Bill containing full funding to complete the cleanup of the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant totaling \$664 million, as well as \$250,000 for the creation of a post-closure organization.

“Those of us who have fought for the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats have cause to celebrate. The Senate continues to support the completion of this project and the eventual transformation of the Rocky Flats site into a national wildlife refuge,” Senator Allard said. “This funding keeps us on schedule for the 2006 completion and closure of Rocky Flats.”

Rocky Flats is in the final stages of environmental cleanup and waste management, and is destined for eventual decommissioning. The target date for completion of this work is December, 2006. It is a complex of more than 100 buildings located in the center of about nine square miles of undeveloped land 16 miles northwest of downtown Denver.

The 2005 Defense Authorization legislation that the Senate approved authorizes a 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise for military personnel and an additional \$925 million for heavily-armored Humvees and enhanced individual body armor. It recommends overall funding of \$422.2 billion in budget authority for defense programs in FY2005, an increase of \$20.9 billion above the amount authorized by Congress for FY2004.

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